

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 672

By Litz

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Aaron Smith on winning the Elks' National Hoop Shoot Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful young athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, Aaron Smith of Morristown, Tennessee, is one such estimable young man who evinces great sportsmanship and athletic excellence in all his endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in Springfield, Massachusetts, the home of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, Aaron Smith recently earned the praise and approbation of his fellow Tennesseans, and indeed all Americans who love sports, when he captured the National Championship in his age division of the Elks' National Hoop Shoot Championship; and

WHEREAS, a third-grade student at Union Heights Elementary School, Aaron Smith started on his path to national glory by winning the local contest at Walters State Community College, hitting twenty-one of twenty-five free throws and survived a shoot-off to advance to the district competition at Daniel Boone High School; and

WHEREAS, hitting nineteen of twenty-five shots to take the district championship, Aaron rightfully earned his spot at the state championship in Franklin, which he won in another shoot-off; his victory garnered him the right to proudly represent Tennessee in the regional competition in Paris, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, with steady hands and calm composure on the foul line, Aaron Smith claimed the regional competition, making nine of ten and then a perfect fifteen of fifteen free throws to punch his ticket to the prestigious national competition in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, once there, nine-year old Aaron Smith displayed his tremendous basketball skill by sinking twenty-three of twenty-five free throws and then four of five free throws in a shoot out to rightfully claim his national championship; and

WHEREAS, for winning the Elks' National Hoop Shoot Championship Aaron received a three-foot trophy along with a gold medal and will have his name included on a plaque that is prominently displayed in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Aaron compiled a truly remarkable level of proficiency in free throw shooting during his race to the championship, making 124 of 140 shots total for a phenomenal 88.5% accuracy rate; and

WHEREAS, Aaron's outstanding athletic accomplishment is a tremendous source of pride for his family, his friends, and his community; and

WHEREAS, displaying outstanding character and spirit throughout the competition, Mr. Smith conducted himself in a manner appropriate to the integrity of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this singular young man not only made possible his victory in the Elks' National Hoop Shoot Championship, but also surely point toward success in his future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the tremendous accomplishments of its athletes who have succeeded both on the field of competition and in everyday life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Aaron Smith on winning the Elks' National Hoop Shoot Championship and wish him all the best in what is sure to be a bright future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.